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ABSTRACT

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THIS DOCUMENT: Video visual aids are Closed Circuit TV systems (CCTV's) which magnify print and enlarge it electronically upon a screen so partially sighted persons with some residual vision can read and write normal size print. These devices are in use around the world in homes, schools, industries and libraries, enabling legally blind or low vision users to make use of their remaining eyesight. In classrooms, visually impaired students are exposed to a variety of learning aids including voice output machines and braille printed materials. In addition, technology has added the electronic print magnification device that whenever possible the partially sighted can function like the fully sighted: by using their eyes. MICROCOMPUTERS FOR THE PARTIALLY SIGHTED: The widespread, increasing use of microcomputers in education highlighted the need for computer accessibility for low vision students. Until recently, voice output or braille readout were the only media available for those unable to read the characters on a standard VDT--video display terminal. Recognizing the enormous use of Apple II computers in schools, our research and development produced the DP-10: a Large Print Display Processor which enlarges the computer's display of information up to 16 times. More importantly, the DP-10 changes the dot matrix display into clear, solid, high contrast characters which are very easy to read. USES OF THE APPLE COMPATIBLE DP-10: The DP-10 operates as a peripheral device; it plugs into the Apple II, II+ or IIe and automatically, without operator programming, enlarges the print display. No software is required and all software usually produced for the Apple line can be used by the partially sighted user. Educators who have APPLE computers do not need to purchase a new special unit for their low vision students. BENEFITS OF THE DP-10 FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENT: The DP-10 is an adaptive device. It permits the legally blind user to learn word processing, accounting, managing techniques, and theory, or whatever he or she wishes to learn. Variable size letters are available at the turn of a dial so the user can individualize the display to accommodate his eye condition. (Author)

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Helping the Visually Impaired Student with Electronic Video Visual Aids

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